

TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 15, 2006 - 7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Reagon at 7:00 p.m.
Salute to the Flag was conducted.
Emergency Exits were pointed out by the Supervisor.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Perotti	Absent
Councilman Euvrard	Present
Councilwoman Doyle	Present
Councilman Russell	Present
Supervisor Reagon	Present

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Supervisor Reagon announced that the Citizen of the Year Award would be presented to Dolores Holland in recognition of her many contributions to the Town of Amenia. Dolores and her husband Larry moved to Amenia full time in 1996 when she retired from the New York Metropolitan Transit Authority. Dolores was a founding member of the Enhancement Committee under Supervisor Arlene Iuliano. Dolores was instrumental in organizing the planting, acquisition, and fundraising for the 80 flower barrels in downtown Amenia and Wassaic. She also coordinated the decorations and tree lighting activities every December. Each July she worked with the Community Garden Club to organize the Hidden Gardens of Amenia tour. Dolores served on both the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee and its successor the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee. Dolores organized the planting of bulbs, trees and Chinese lilacs at the ballfield and helped with pruning the street trees each year on Route 22 and East Main Street. In the fall, the Community Garden Club will provide 200,000 bulbs free to those who would like to plant them in town to help us remember Dolores and others who have helped to make Amenia more pleasing to the eye.

The Citizen of the Year Award was accepted for Dolores by Andy Durbridge, friend of Dolores and chair of the Enhancement Committee. In his brief acceptance remarks, Andy encouraged everyone to follow Dolores' example and volunteer to help our community.

Councilman Euvrard displayed a brass elephant that he had brought in honor of Dolores. The elephant was a souvenir from a trip that the Euvrards had taken to India with Dolores. Councilwoman Doyle praised Dolores as the type of person who sees what needs to be done and just does it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Tom Werner:

- Summer rec program with Millerton: Does Millerton assume all responsibility, e.g. workmen's compensation?
- Recreation Master Plan - Supervisor Reagon announced that this plan would not be adopted until the July Town Board meeting. This will allow time for the Rec Commission to review and comment on the plan before the July workshop meeting. Copies of the Rec plan are available at the library and town hall.

Charlene Pollinger and Frankie O'Connell thanked the Town Board for delaying the approval of the Rec Master Plan to allow Rec Commission input.

Diana King:

- As a friend of Dolores Holland, Diana expressed her love for Dolores and said that we would be thinking of Dolores in October when the bulbs are planted.

Margaret Fettes, Dutchess County Legislator:

- Dutchess County has still not decided what type of voting machines to use next year, although the Democratic caucus has proposed using optical scanning equipment where a paper ballot gets scanned and then placed into a locked box.
- The County Board of Elections may ask the towns to help transport voting machines, since the voting machines belong to the county (rather than the town) as of this year.
- The latest proposal before the County Legislature calls for election inspectors to be paid \$200 - \$215 per day for regular elections and \$150 per day for primary elections.
- County Executive Steinhaus will be asking the towns to contribute to Purchase Development Rights (PDR). Up until now only the county and state have contributed.

HEALTH INSURANCE PRESENTATION - DONNA MILLS

Supervisor Reagon reported that Donna Mills had been trying to find a way to offer health insurance to our emergency volunteers, but discovered that this is not legal in New York State. However, Donna will come in July to make a presentation to town employees. In the meantime, everyone is encouraged to put pressure on Albany to allow us to offer insurance to our volunteers.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

Supervisor Reagon read the resolution which authorized the Supervisor to sign the Cooperation Agreement Amendment of 2006 for the Community Development Block Grant Program. This agreement covers the 3-year period from 2007-2009:

RESOLUTION 32 OF 2006: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AGREEMENT

MOTION: S/Reagon

SECOND: C/Euvrard

ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - ABSENT C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - AYE C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE

MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

NEW VOTING MACHINES

Supervisor Reagon read the resolution which directed the Supervisor to write letters to the Dutchess County Election Commissioners and the County Legislature supporting the adoption of paper ballot optical scanner voting machines:

RESOLUTION 34 OF 2006: SUPPORT PAPER BALLOT OPTICAL SCANNER VOTING MACHINES

MOTION: S/Reagon
SECOND: C/Doyle
ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - ABSENT C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - AYE C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE
MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Supervisor Reagon reiterated that the discussion of this plan is deferred until the July Town Board workshop.

AMENIA FIREMEN'S CARNIVAL

Supervisor Reagon read the resolution rescinding the open container law and authorizing road closures for the Firemen's Carnival and parade in July:

RESOLUTION 35 OF 2006: RESCIND OPEN CONTAINER LAW AND AUTHORIZE ROAD CLOSURES FOR FIREMEN'S CARNIVAL AND PARADE

MOTION: C/Euvrard
SECOND: C/Russell
ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - ABSENT C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - AYE C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE
MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

SUMMER RECREATION CONTRACT WITH MILLERTON

Supervisor Reagon read the resolution to transfer \$ 3,000 from Contingency (A00-01-1900-430) to Recreation Contractual Expenses (A00-06-7145-400). This is necessary because the budgeted amount for the summer recreation program was only \$10,000 and the cost was increased to \$13,000 for 2006.

RESOLUTION 33 OF 2006: TRANSFER \$ 3,000 FROM CONTINGENCY TO COVER COST OF SUMMER REC PROGRAM WITH MILLERTON

MOTION: S/Reagon
SECOND: C/Russell
ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - ABSENT C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - abstain C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE
MOTION CARRIED 3 to 0 WITH 1 ABSTENTION.

SUMMER REC PROGRAM FIELD TRIP COSTS

Supervisor Reagon read a letter from Dr. Johns, Superintendent of Webutuck Central School District. The letter requests Amenia to contribute to the cost of summer field trips at a rate of \$1.78 per mile, plus other expenses. Since this was handled differently in the past and since the field trips were not included in the original budget, Supervisor Reagon will do more research. Councilwoman Doyle clarified that the \$4,000 in the budget was intended to cover the cost of transporting Amenia children to Millerton for the Rec program, it was not meant for field trips. Linda Gregory, Rec Commission member, requested a copy of the letter.

MOVE REC FUNDS FROM GIRLS' SOFTBALL TO BASEBALL

Supervisor Reagon read the resolution to transfer \$ 900 from Girls' Softball (A00-06-7310-410) to Little League (A00-06-7310-450, \$26.96) and Farm Teams (A00-06-7310-440, \$873.04). The money became available when the Girls' Softball program was cancelled due to low enrollment. The other programs had

higher than expected registrations resulting in three new teams and increased expenses.

RESOLUTION 36 OF 2006: TRANSFER \$ 900 FROM GIRLS' SOFTBALL TO FARM TEAMS AND LITTLE LEAGUE

MOTION: S/Reagon

SECOND: C/Doyle

ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - ABSENT C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - AYE C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE

MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

SURVEY OF TOWN PROPERTY

Supervisor Reagon informed the Board that the suggested survey of Town property would not be necessary because we already have surveys. She also spoke with Harry Bly about the railroad property.

DEPUTY SHERIFFS: AUTHORIZE HIRING

Supervisor Reagon read the resolution authorizing the Supervisor to arrange for the hiring of Deputy Sheriffs for the Silo Ridge prom, the Bike New York trail ride, the Firemen's Carnival in July, and similar events. In all these cases, the cost of the Deputies' time is reimbursed to the Town by the event organizers. The resolution is needed because the Town must request coverage from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department.

RESOLUTION 37 OF 2006: AUTHORIZE HIRING DEPUTY SHERIFFS FOR PROM, BIKE NEW YORK, FIREMEN'S CARNIVAL AND SIMILAR EVENTS

MOTION: C/Euvrard

SECOND: C/Russell

ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - ABSENT C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - AYE C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE

MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

AMENIA ISLAND CEMETERY

The Board of Directors of the Amenia Island Cemetery would like a letter of intent that the Town is willing to take over the cemetery, before the board disbands. Town Attorney Michael Hayes reviewed the process by which the Town could take over the cemetery. Technically, the Town can take over a cemetery only after it is "abandoned", that is, the Board of Directors of the cemetery has disbanded. However, after speaking to the State Cemetery Board, Attorney Hayes discovered that the Town cannot be compelled to take over a cemetery that has not yet been abandoned, but that the Town may take over a cemetery if the town board feels that it is in the best interest of the town. Michael Hayes suggested that the Town write a letter of intent to the Cemetery Board, but limit the letter to the legal requirement. Councilmen Euvrard expressed his opinion that the Town should not get involved until the cemetery is legally abandoned, in order to avoid the expense of maintaining the cemetery. Supervisor Reagon instructed the attorney to draft a letter of intent.

TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

Supervisor Reagon read the ad describing a position of part-time Technology specialist. In response to a question from Councilman Euvrard, the supervisor noted that the new position would be funded from the budget line currently used to pay for Data2000 support, which is no longer needed.

Councilwoman Doyle noted that the "account support" line for \$10,000 had 46% spent so far. The Town Clerk was instructed to advertise for this new position.

NYSDOT GRANT FOR SIDEWALKS

Michael Haggerty presented a resolution which authorized the Town of Amenia to prepare a grant application under the NYSDOT's SAFETEA LU program for new sidewalks linking the downtown Amenia hamlet with Beekman Park and Freshtown Plaza along Routes 22 and 44. He noted that sidewalks may be built along state roads with a state permit.

Councilman Euvrard cautioned that the \$180,000 estimate for the sidewalks sounded low considering the amount of site work needed. Councilwoman Doyle explained that town engineer Pete Setaro had made the estimate for the sidewalks, including curbs and drainage. Supervisor Reagon noted that money should be put in next year's budget (as a capital project) to cover Amenia's share of the grant. Even though the grant requires only a 20% match, it is a reimbursement program so more money may have to be put in the budget. All work on the grant must be completed within five years.

AUTHORIZE GRANT APPLICATION UNDER NYSDOT'S SAFETEA LU PROGRAM

MOTION: S/Reagon

SECOND: C/Doyle

ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - ABSENT C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - AYE C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE

MOTION CARRIED 4 to 0.

WASSAIC

Supervisor Reagon reported on two issues related to Wassaic:

- The agreement with Metro-North to install the light poles has been received.
- The two trees in the circle in Wassaic are in need of help. The spruce is too big and hard to decorate in December. Either the trees must be fertilized and pruned or replaced. Replacement could be with a slow-growing spruce tree which is quite durable and survives well even in city conditions. Councilman Russell suggested that the Town Board let Nancy and Pat Goodacre make the decision since they have shown the most interest in this issue. Supervisor Reagon said that a decision would be deferred until next month to allow time for input from the residents of Wassaic.

MINUTES

The minutes of the May 18, 2006 Town Board meeting were presented for approval. Councilman Euvrard noted that a comment he had made at that meeting was omitted from the minutes. Town Clerk Gail Hermosilla replied that corrections to the minutes are always welcome, and it is for that reason that the minutes are distributed weeks before the Town Board meeting. Approval of the minutes was deferred until the Town Clerk and Councilman Euvrard could discuss the change requested.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

RECREATION COMMISSION

Tom Werner reported:

- The walking program has been set up following guidelines from the University of Albany. There is no age restriction.

- The Intermunicipal agreement has been held up because of insurance concerns.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent Stan Whitehead reported:

- 1500 feet of blacktop was laid on Cascade Mountain Road. However, blacktopping had to be discontinued due to long lines to get the blacktop.
- Work has started on the dirt roads.
- Culvert pipe and other improvements have been made to Cascade Road.
- There was \$16,500 in the general fund for street lights but nothing in the Highway Department budget. Supervisor Reagon said she would look into this and transfer money into the Highway Department if appropriate.

MOWING SPECIFICATION AMENDMENT

Supervisor Reagon indicated that a change was needed to the mowing specification to include the strip of grass across from town hall between Mechanic Street and the sidewalk, from Cozy Corner up to the old NAPA building. Councilwoman Doyle noted that this is highly visible and looks awful, and that budget money exists for this purpose since the lawn bids came in lower than expected. Harlem Valley Lawn Care will charge an additional \$330 to mow this strip for the rest of the year.

AUTHORIZE \$330 TO MOW STRIP OF GRASS BETWEEN MECHANIC STREET AND THE SIDEWALK

MOTION: S/Reagon

SECOND: C/Doyle

ROLL CALL: C/Perotti - ABSENT C/Doyle - AYE
C/Euvrard - abstain C/Russell - AYE
S/Reagon - AYE

MOTION CARRIED 3 to 0 WITH 1 ABSTENTION.

WATER DISTRICT

Gary Bonds reported:

- The results of the MPA test (comparing well water to wetland water) came back OK.
- Water usage remains relatively stable at 95,000 - 105,000 gallons per day.
- Working with John Lazarony to answer questions from DEC and State Health Department.
- Prep for the new well #4A has begun by bringing in electronics and so on.
- Responding to questions from Syms' engineer about existing water tank.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

Town Clerk Gail Hermosilla gave the attached status report.

TOWN BOARD COMMENTS:

Councilman Euvrard:

- The new assessment being sent out now, does it show 100% assessment? Supervisor Reagon explained that what is being sent out now is just a "data mailer" which contains facts about the property. The evaluations (or "assessments") will not be sent out until late August or September. Residents are urged to return the data mailer even if the data is correct. Unlike other towns, Amenia's last revaluation was not that long ago. The objective is to have everyone pay their fair share.

Councilwoman Doyle:

- Can our Town Board add a temporary member (1-year term) to the Board of Assessment Review (BAR)? According to the Real Property Tax Law, a temporary member may be added at times of increased activity, for example when a revaluation is done. George Mudge has given good comments and should be invited to join the BAR.
- In July 2005, we held a reception to welcome new businesses in town. Since there are a number of new businesses since then, we could repeat this event, perhaps at 6:00 before the Town Board workshop on July 13.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Reagon reported:

- Town Court now has a dedicated fax line and can accept credit cards (Master Card and Visa) for payment of fines.
- A new phone is being installed in the Assessor's office to accommodate DSL; the charge will be about nine dollars per month.
- Cornerstone discovered that Verizon had been over-charging the town. That situation has now been cleared up.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Elizabeth Whaley:

- Allen property: It is appropriate for the Town Board to revisit this issue; school boards do that all the time. The Allen property is a rare opportunity for the town and should be given full consideration.

Anthony Batista:

- A neighbor is using an outdoor wood boiler to heat hot water. The burner is about 200 feet away with no trees in between, resulting in so much smoke that Mr. Batista is forced to close his windows to avoid choking. Although the boiler is within EPA guidelines (according to the building inspector), it is still a major nuisance and prevents Mr. Batista from enjoying his own property. Michael Hayes commented that the use of wood burning boilers can be regulated through zoning as they are currently doing in Red Hook and Hyde Park. Or, a private citizen can bring a nuisance case against another citizen. Supervisor Reagon noted that there is neither a state law nor a local ordinance regulating the use of wood burning boilers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilwoman Doyle:

- Sunday July 30 is the Bike New York rail trail ride.
- Saturday July 15 is the Hidden Gardens of Amenia tour.
- July 1 is the deadline for comments to CPIC.
- Friday July 7 at 7:00 is the 4th of July parade in Amenia.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hermosilla,
Amenia Town Clerk

Approved by Town Board: 7/27/06

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Town Clerk Monthly Status Report for May 2006
Presented June 16, 2006

Regular Monthly Activity:

Dog licenses	11
Marriage licenses	3
Marriage certified copies	0
Birth certificate copies	0
Death certificate copies	5
Zoning books sold	4
Miscellaneous copies	38
Transfer station permits	9
Bulk permits sold	28
Transfer station coupon books	172
Burning permits issued	77
FOILs received	4
Legal notices/public hearing sent	0
Handicap parking permits	10
Bids advertised	0
Documents notarized	5
Trailer Park permits	0
Gathering permits	0
Wagering fees - Bingo	4
Peddler permit	1
Hunting/fishing license sold	4

As a result of this activity, we gave the Supervisor \$ 4,535 for last month.

Burning Permits

Burning permits are now being issued with an expiration date in August in anticipation of dry conditions at that time.

Tax Collector

We have collected \$ 2.4 million in taxes this year. The tax collection period to pay your property taxes in Amenia ended on May 31. Any unpaid tax bills must be handled through the Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance.

Changes in the Town Clerk Office

We have been working with the auditors from the State Comptroller's Office for the past several months. As a result of this audit, several new procedures have been initiated in the town clerk office, including:

- Pre-printing the permit number on Transfer Station permit cards.
- Pre-printing coupon numbers in the log book to record Transfer Station coupon sales. This is a type of "inventory control".
- Verifying that the BAS monthly report equals the sum of the daily reports.
- Keeping a "change fund" of exactly \$100 which is monitored on a regular basis.

From the beginning, the Town Clerk office has welcomed this audit. Because of these improved procedures, we feel that the audit has been very helpful and successful.

Another change that you may have noticed is that the half-door to the Town Clerk office is now kept

closed. This is not because we are unfriendly. Again, this is the auditor's suggestion to safeguard the integrity of our records. If someone needs to sit down, just ask and we will gladly invite you into the office to sit. Otherwise, all transactions will be conducted at the door.

Open Government

The Executive Director of the NYS Committee on Open Government will be speaking on Tuesday June 20 at 10:00 am at the Poughkeepsie Town Hall. Robert Freeman is an expert on FOILs and related matters. This meeting is open to the public and I encourage anyone who is interested to attend. I have details and directions.

Saturday Hours

For the past year, the Town Clerk office has been open for business on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9:00 till noon. Business has been very slow with usually only one or two people showing up. As a result, we are going to try a "Saturdays by appointment" schedule for the summer. This means that someone can make an appointment for any Saturday, morning or afternoon, rather than being restricted to simply the morning of the third Saturday.

Astor Head Start

Astor Head Start is accepting applications for their summer program. For more information call Marilyn Najack at 845 452-4167. This information is also on Channel 22.

Thank you.

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